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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Holy God of Justice, we turn to You with a just cause. We are profoundly disturbed by the burning of the church buildings of black and multiracial congregations in our land. Our consternation has grown as this hateful, destructive arsonism has continued. Father, we have prayed through the years for Your power to combat racism in America and You have helped us make some progress. Now we ask You to stay the hand of the collusive, coercive forces that have committed these cowardly acts of setting fire to sanctuaries of worship. Intervene to expose them so that they can be brought to justice. Control the unresolved prejudices in others who might be instigated to copy these crimes. Thank You for raising up people of all races who have rallied to help reconstruct the burned out sanctuaries. Oh God, in this land where You have given us freedom to worship You, step in to save the sanctuaries of Your people. In Your all-powerful name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of S. 1745, the Department of Defense authorization bill and the pending Dorgan amendment. There will be 15 minutes of debate on the Dorgan

amendment this morning, with a vote on or in relation to that amendment immediately following that debate time.

Also, Senators should be reminded after this morning's vote, there will be other votes, of course, throughout the day. We will be doing our very best to keep the time limit on the votes to 20 minutes. There are always extenuating circumstances, but we will start off today by trying to keep that commitment. Senators are encouraged to respond promptly to the votes, and if you have amendments that you want to offer, please be here with them so we can have those amendments offered and debate so we can do it during the daylight instead of very, very late tonight.

Mr. President, also, I announce that the Democratic leader and I are continuing with negotiations with respect to minimum wage, small business tax package, and other issues. We are in hope of reaching some agreement shortly with respect to this issue and all the other related matters. We have not been able to complete that effort, but we are working on it very seriously. We hope to be able to get that done shortly. We will come to the floor and make that announcement.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1745, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1745) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of

the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Dorgan amendment No. 4048, to reduce funds authorized for research, development, test, and evaluation for national missile defense.

Kyl amendment No. 4049, to authorize underground nuclear testing under limited conditions.

AMENDMENT NO. 4048

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 15 minutes of debate on the pending Dorgan amendment No. 4048, equally divided.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I understand there is a period of time to continue debate ever so briefly prior to the scheduled vote. Senator LEVIN, I believe, wishes to take just a couple of minutes. I intend to yield to him when he arrives. When Senator THURMOND comes through, I will be happy to yield to him.

Let me describe just briefly exactly what this amendment is and what it is not. The Defense authorization bill that comes to the floor of the Senate includes in it \$508 million for research and development for a national missile defense program. That is a program that has been bantered about around here. Some call it national missile defense, some call it Defend America, some call it star wars. Whatever you call it, it is a program to try to find a way to intercept potential incoming missiles launched by a rogue nation, an adversary, or launched accidentally by someone else. This is the outgrowth of the old star wars proposals back in the early 1980's.

There is in the Clinton budget a proposal for continued research and development of \$508 million. The majority party, in constructing the piece of legislation brought to the floor today,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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